From: Anisa Divine
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2004 6:54 PM
To: Dabbs, Paul
Cc: Bill Jacoby; Grace L Chan; Lisa Beutler; Sumi, David
Subject: RE: Bulletin 160 & Southern California Drought

Dear Paul,

On the Regional Water Balance Summary tables (Table 5-1 in the South Coast Hydrologic Region report), in the column headings where it says 1998 (wet), 2000 (average), and 2001 (dry) -- can these be changed to something like 1998 (statewide wet), 2000 (statewide average), and 2001 (statewide dry) -- or at least footnoted, rather than just referring the reader to the Water Portfolio section for details.

My proposed change will take care of misunderstandings that might otherwise arise when looking at these tables from data like that for South Coast & Imperial Valley (which will probably match that for the Colorado River Region, when it is available).

Average rainfall (17.6" over 10,925 sq mi; i.e., 10,255 ac) = 10,255 taf
The South Coast Hydrologic Summary is in Volume 3, Chapter 5, where regional precipitation for the three years is as follows:

- 1998 (wet) 20,873 taf
- 2000 (average) 7,522 taf
- 2001 (dry) 9,327 taf

Surely 2000 with 7500 taf was not an average year, if 2001 with 9300 taf was a dry year? Also, as you see below, Imperial Valley also a similar situation, with discrepancies from the statewide situation.

Imperial Valley

- 1998 (wet) 3.26" -- (slightly above normal)
- 2000 (average) 0.95" (very dry - about 1/3 of normal)
- 2001 (dry) 1.76" in 2001 (dry again - a little over 1/2 of normal)

& AS INFO:

- 2002 0.66" (nearly driest year on record)
- 2003 2.72".(normal)

Finally, in the maps that show California 30-year average data, the lowest precipitation reading is 12"/year -- which must leaves at least the Colorado and Mojave regions of the state that color for most years -- since our average precipitation is 3"/year.
A procedure more akin to that used by the Drought Monitor, where variation from 30-year average is shown rather than a color for a specific value when there are areas of the state that will never be any color than dark brown. Also, by doing this, you may be able to show variation within the region. Perhaps this can be accomplished for the Update 2008.

http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html

I was reminded about possible misinterpretations when I read the following article from the Riverside Press-Enterprise. People who think they are in a five-year drought will be surprised to find that the Water Plan cites one of those years as average.

> 'A sharply divided Riverside City Council voted Tuesday night to raise residential water rates about 25 percent over the next three years, ...
>
> Public Utilities Director Tom Evans told the council the increase was needed to pay for long-overdue repairs, including the replacement of aging and leaking pipelines, to cover wage and salary increases for water utility staff to help keep up with inflation, and to cover costs associated with the drought. "We are in at least the fifth year of a drought," Evans said. "Water levels are dropping." Dropping water levels translate into extra energy costs to pump water from deeper in the ground, Evans said.'
>
> from **RIVERSIDE: In a 4-3 vote, members give the nod to a 25-percent increase over three years.** - **12:38 AM PDT on Wednesday, May 26, 2004** - **By SANDRA STOKLEY / The Press-Enterprise**

Anisa

Anisa Divine, Ph.D., Senior Planner
Resources Planning & Management Section
IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT
333 E. Barioni Blvd. (P.O. Box 937)
Imperial, CA 92251